

Further Analysis of data related to Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)¹

There is strong interest from policy makers and practitioners in monitoring the levels and trends of young people not in education, employment or training, in line with the Welsh Government's strategic approach to reducing the proportion of young people who are NEET as set out in the *Youth Engagement and Employment Action Plan (Jan 2011)*. The proportion of young people who are NEET is one of the measures included within the recently published Programme for Government in the context of Tackling Poverty.

To meet this need for information we publish two regular sources of information. The definitive source for estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales is the annual Statistical First Release (SFR) series, *Participation of young people in education and the labour market*. Additionally, we produce a quarterly series from the Annual Population Survey to provide user with more timely, but less statistically robust, statistics between SFRs and includes some analysis by gender, age and region, not possible with the SFR data.

However, there is still a demand for more information, to get underneath the headline data and understand variation by local area, by other characteristics such as disability, and the reason for young people being NEET. This message came through our user consultation on *Education and Lifelong Learning Statistics* late last year and was also articulated in the National Assembly for Wales Enterprise and Learning Committee report of October 2010 into *Young people not in education, employment or training*, which included two recommendations concerning data on young people that are NEET (see notes).

In response to this demand for information this statistical article provides some additional analysis of young people who are NEET. In doing so it highlights some of the issues around the quality of the data, given that it comes from a sample survey (the Annual Population Survey), for which reason we do not include the information within our regular bulletin. There is a balance to be made between demand for the information, and its value given the limitations of the source, and we welcome any feedback on the usefulness of data included within this article.

The key findings of the Article are:

- Just under a fifth of young people are NEET;
- Males are more likely to be NEET between 16-18, females are more likely between 19-24;
- Authorities with the highest estimates of young people who are NEET are largely (although not entirely) within South East Wales;
- The reasons for being NEET vary by gender and age, with over half of females aged 19-24 who are NEET, economically inactive due to family or other caring responsibilities;
- Qualification levels are lower amongst those who are NEET;
- The proportion of young people who are NEET is higher amongst those with a disability.

Date of Publication: March 2012

Next update: Not a regular output

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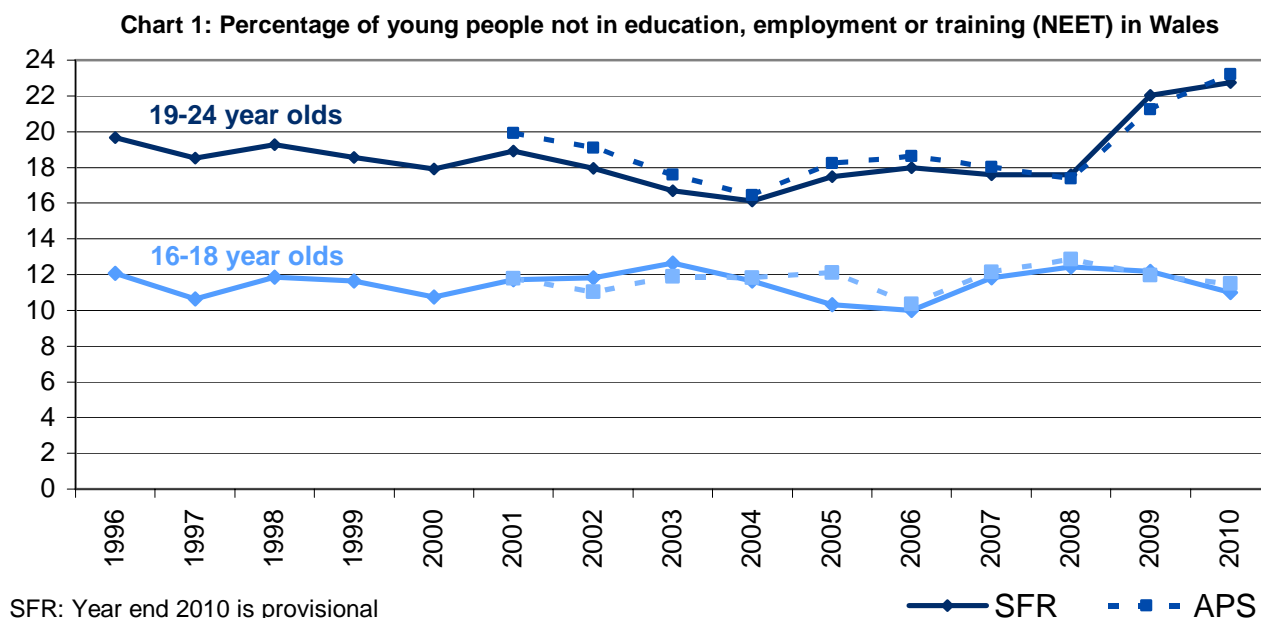
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¹ Notes on the use of statistical articles can be found at the end of this document.

Statistical First Release series

As background, Chart 1 presents the headline series of the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales – it is presented separately for those aged 16-18, and 19-24 (on an academic age basis, ie age as at 31 August prior to the start of the academic year).

The chart shows that the proportion of 16-18 year olds who are NEET has fluctuated between 10-12 per cent over the years 1996 to 2010. For 19-24 year olds, the rate ranged between 16-20 per cent over the years 1996 to 2008, climbing to 23 per cent in 2010. Supporting data are shown in table 1.



Source: WG Statistical First Release (SDR 125/2011) Participation of Young People in Education and the Labour Market; Annual Local Labour Force Survey for Wales 2001-2003; Annual Population Survey 2004-2010

This headline, definitive measure, of the proportion of young people who are NEET is only constructed at the Wales level. It is based on population estimates as at the end of the calendar year, education enrolments counts in December for work-based learning, further and higher education and in the following January for schools. The Annual Population Survey is used to estimate the proportion of those not in education or training who are unemployed or inactive.

Whilst we could disaggregate the enrolment data by local authority (though there could be issues around quality of address information and cross-border flows between those resident in one authority but studying in another, or across the Wales/England border), the only source of economic activity data is the Annual Population Survey. This survey is the largest household survey in the UK, consisting of a sample of around 16,000 households a year in Wales, and as such provides us with key data related to the economy and education. However, given that we are already focusing in on detailed age groups (16-18 and 19-24), the sample size is not sufficient for local authority analysis and hence a breakdown of the annual series by local authority is not available.

Annual Population Survey series

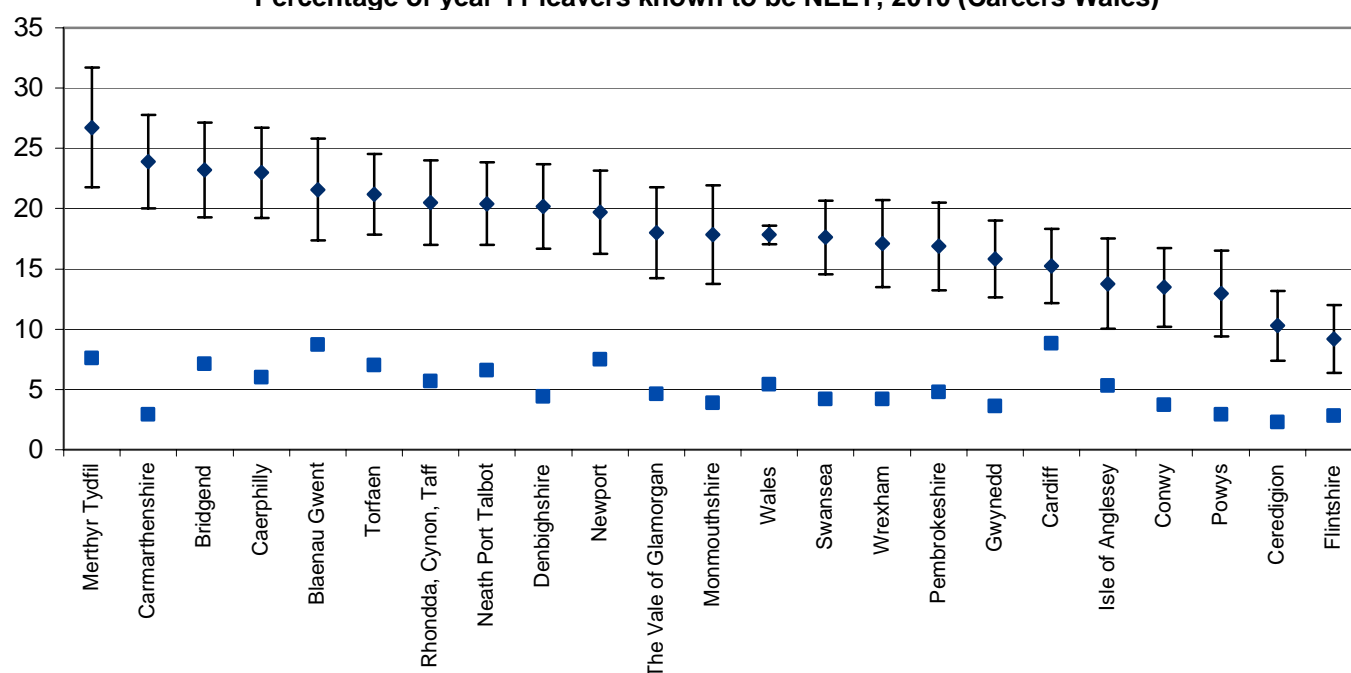
In addition to the SFR series, we publish a quarterly series based on data from the Annual Population Survey only. This is to provide users with more timely data, and more detailed analysis by single year of age and region, accepting that the data are less robust than those from the SFR series, particularly the more detailed the analysis becomes. Included on chart 1 on are estimates from the APS of the proportion of young people who are NEET, for the same time periods as the SFR series, showing how at this overall level the two series are showing similar levels and trends. The purpose of this article is to further explore the data available from the Annual Population Survey, and discuss its limitations.

Data by local authority

There is key interest in understanding the levels of young people who are NEET at a local level. As established, the headline SFR series does not allow itself to analysis at local authority level. As an alternative we include in our Statistical Bulletin local authority analysis from the Careers Wales pupil destinations survey. However, the data is limited in that it relates to Year 11 leavers only and there are differences in definition from the official statistics measures. As a further alternative we can consider the data available from the Annual Population Survey. To do this we need to look across the age group 16 to 24 as a whole, and to present data as a 3 year average.

Chart 2 shows the estimated level of young people who are NEET within each authority, within the 95 per cent confidence intervals around the data. It shows that the authorities with the highest estimates of young people who are NEET are largely (although not entirely) within South East Wales. The Year 11 Careers Wales estimates area also shown on the chart, and there are some similar messages coming from the two data series – Powys, Flintshire and Ceredigion have the lowest estimates in both series, and Merthyr Tydfil, Bridgend, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen are amongst those with the highest estimates in both series. However, the series show particularly anomalous results for Carmarthenshire and Cardiff..

Chart 2: Percentage of 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales, by local authority, 3 year average 2008-2010 (APS)
Percentage of year 11 leavers known to be NEET, 2010 (Careers Wales)



Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010 and Careers Wales Pupil Destinations Survey 2010

Figures to support this chart are shown in table 2, including the data for single years. It demonstrates the quality issues around the data for single years, with data often categorised as limited or low quality, large confidence intervals around the data for individual authorities, with data often fluctuating considerably from year to year. Given these issues we do not recommend year on year comparison of these local authority estimates, as the high levels of sampling variability will be a contribution to the changes seen in the level and proportion of young people who are NEET.

Even presenting the data as a 3 year average it needs to be kept in mind that these estimates are still based on responses by a relatively few number of individuals within each authority, with Powys and Flintshire falling slightly below the 40 responses required to be regarded above limited quality. The confidence intervals around the estimates demonstrate how caution needs to be exercised in making comparisons between authorities. It should also be considered that this geographical analysis does not take account of qualification levels within each Authority, which are an important predictor of NEET status, as shown later in this article.

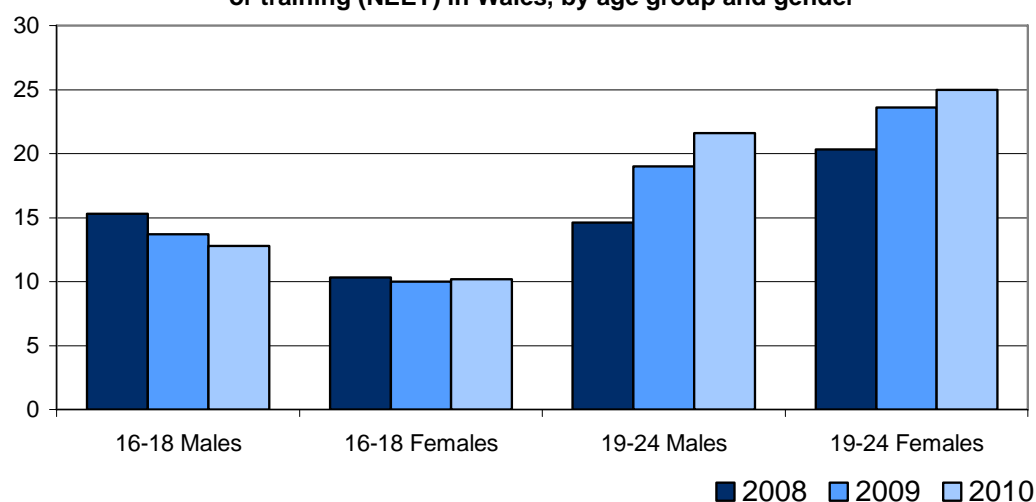
Note that the claimant count data published each month, whilst not a complete measure of youth unemployment or those who are NEET, are from administrative data, and therefore provide a complete and reliable picture of relative levels across Wales.

Data by age and gender

Using the Annual Population Survey as a source allows further analysis by single year of age and gender, which is not possible with the headline series. As background, chart 3 presents the data for the single years 2008 to 2010 by gender.

It shows the proportion who are NEET decreasing amongst 16-18 year old males from 2008 to 2010, whilst remaining steady for females of that age. The proportion of 19-24 year olds who are NEET has increased for both males and females over the same period.

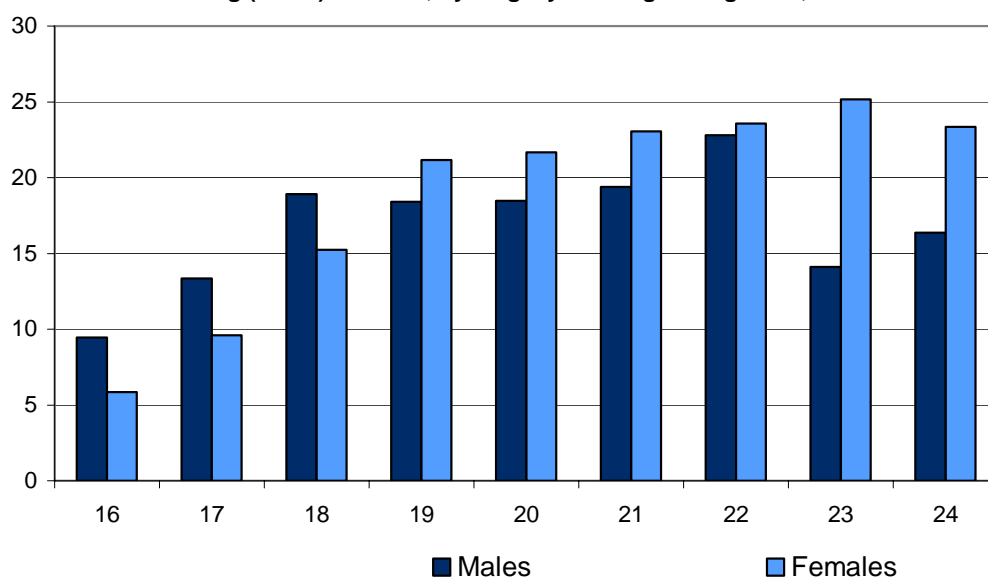
Chart 3: Percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales, by age group and gender



Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010

Using a 3 year average of the data for 2008 to 2010, it is possible to look at data by single year of age and gender. This is shown in chart 4. This shows how for ages 16 to 18 the proportion of males who are NEET is higher than that for females, but the situation reverses for ages 19 to 24 with higher proportions of females being NEET.

Chart 4: Percentage young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales, by single year of age and gender, 2008-2010



Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010

Reason for being NEET

The headline figures present the overall level and proportion of those young people who are NEET in Wales. There is interest in getting underneath the statistics, and understand the varying reasons why individuals are not in education, employment or training (NEET). The Annual Population Survey can provide analysis to support this, in terms of assessing the economic activity status of those who are NEET i.e. whether they are unemployed (and if so whether the length of their unemployment) or whether they are classified as inactive, and the reasons for inactivity e.g., family/home responsibilities, or sickness/disability.

Chart 5 shows amongst 19-24 year olds who were NEET 4 in 10 were unemployed, whilst close to 6 in 10 were considered economically inactive – 3 in 10 due to family or caring responsibilities.

Chart 5: 19-24 year olds not in education, training or employment in Wales, by activity status, 3 year average 2008-2010

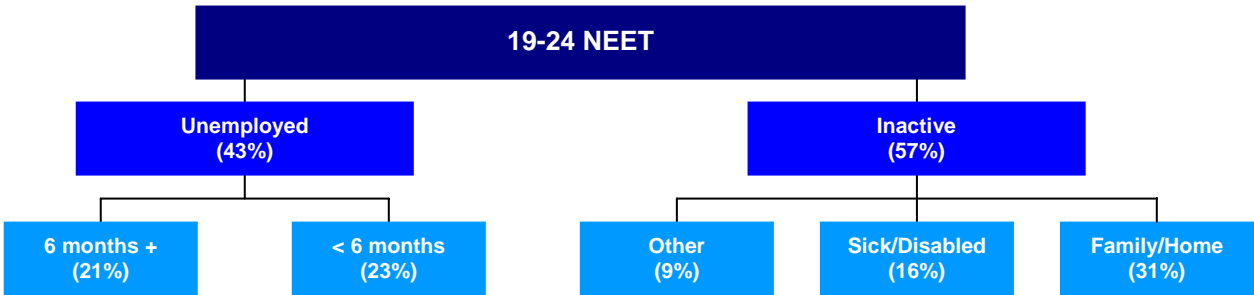
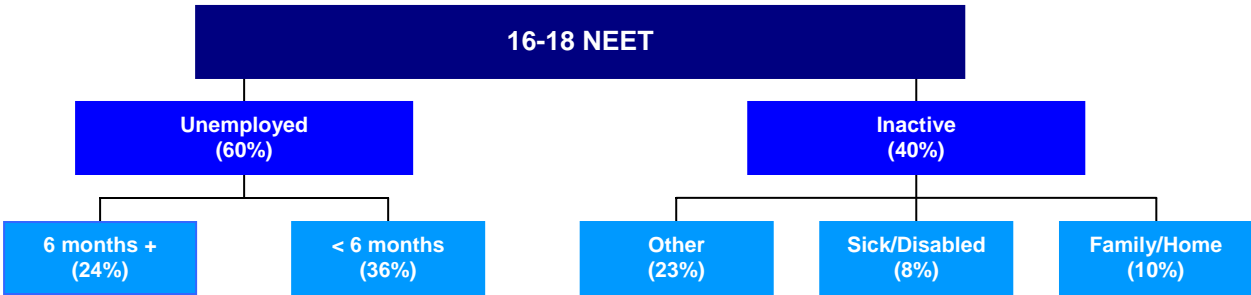


Chart 6 provides this breakdown for the 16-18 year old age group. It demonstrates that around 6 in 10 of those who were NEET were unemployed. 2 out of 10 were inactive due to sickness or disability, or family or caring responsibilities, with 2 out of 10 inactive due to other reasons.

Chart 6: 16-18 year olds not in education, training or employment in Wales, by activity status, 3 year average 2008-2010



Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010

Looking at the information for 19-24 year olds by gender, shows key differences between males and females in their reasons for being NEET. Two-thirds of males were unemployed compared to just a quarter of females, with a third of males having been unemployed for 6 months or more. Over half of females were economically inactive due to family or caring responsibilities compared to just 3 per cent of males.

Chart 7: 19-24 year old males not in education, training or employment in Wales, by activity status, 3 year average 2008-2010

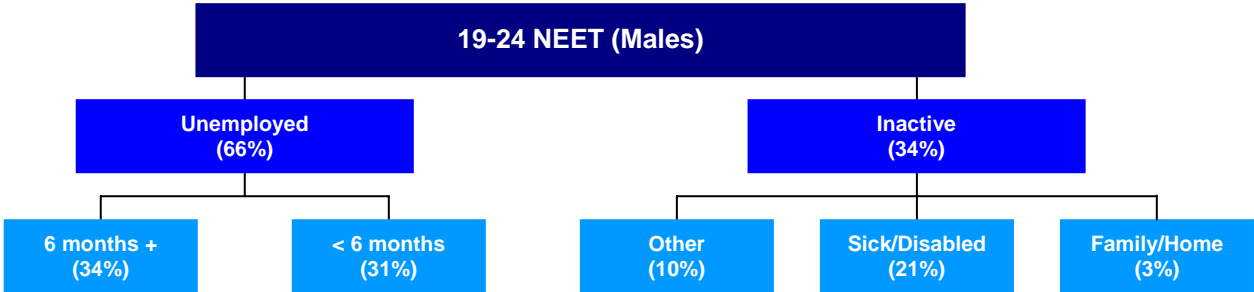
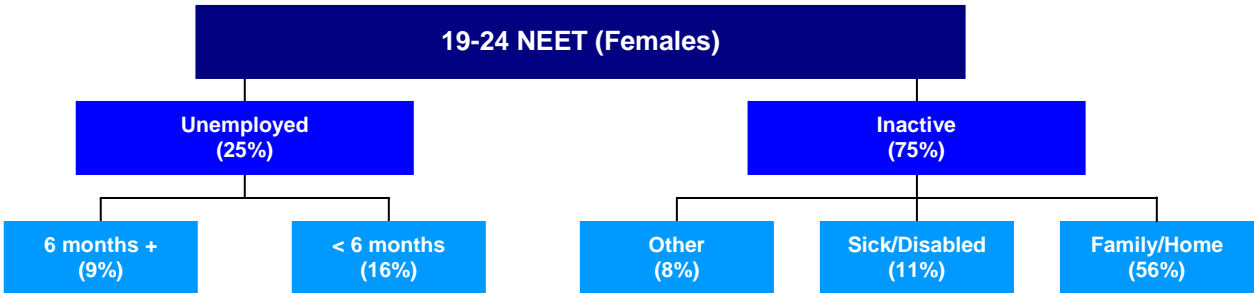


Chart 8: 19-24 year old females not in education, training or employment in Wales, by activity status, 3 year average 2008-2010

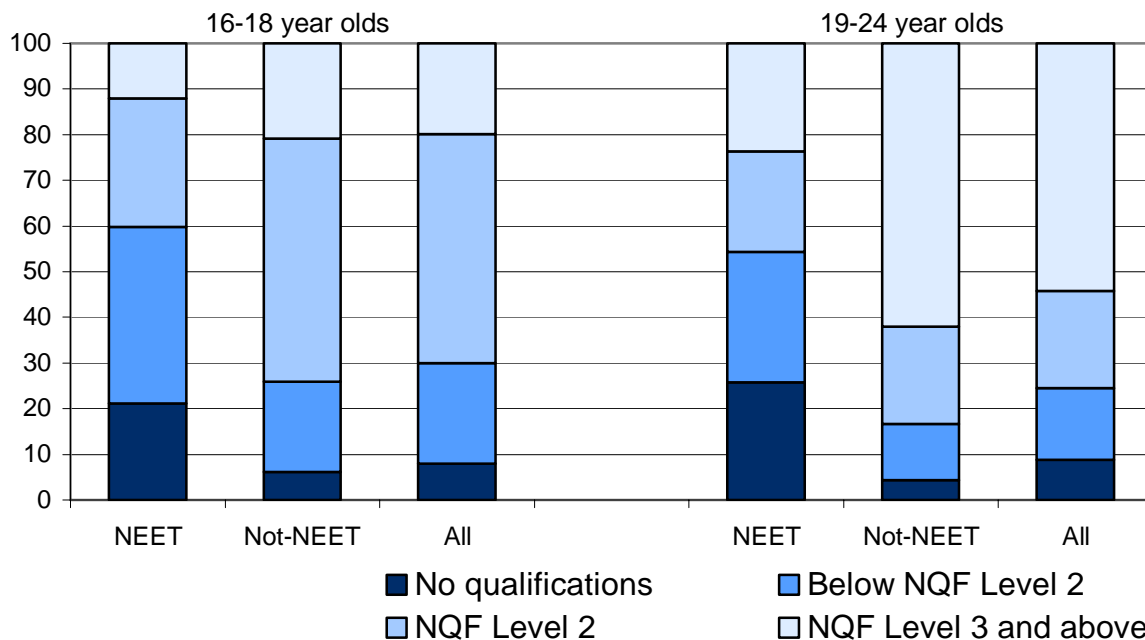


Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010

Qualifications of those who are NEET

We can also assess the qualification levels of young people who are NEET in comparison to others. Chart 7 shows that young people who are NEET are more likely to have low or no qualifications than the population as a whole.

Chart 7: Percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales, by level of highest qualification, 3 year average 2008-2010



Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010

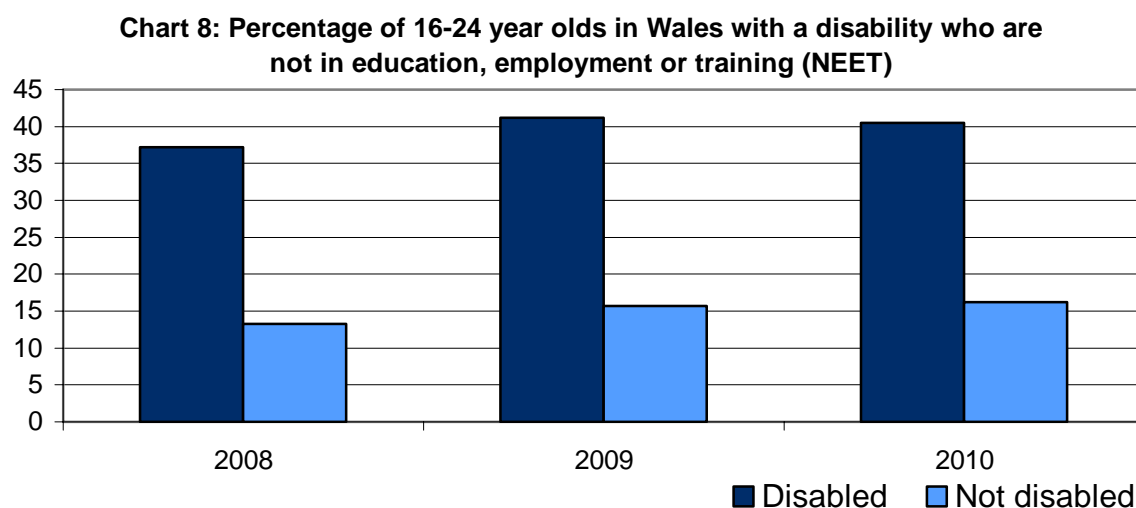
21 per cent of 16-18 year olds who were NEET had no qualifications compared with 8 per cent of the population as a whole. 40 per cent were qualified to NQF level 2 or above, compared with 70 per cent of the population as a whole.

For 19-24 year olds, 26 per cent of those who were NEET had no qualifications compared with 9 per cent of the population as a whole. 46 per cent were qualified to NQF level 2 or above, compared with 76 per cent of the population as a whole.

Disability Status

As articulated in the National Assembly for Wales Enterprise and Learning Committee report of October 2010 into *Young people not in education, employment or training* there is a need for data on the relative levels of NEET amongst those who are disabled. To provide data of sufficient quality we need to look at data for the 16-24 age group as a whole.

Chart 8 demonstrates a higher proportion of young people who are NEET amongst those with a disability.



Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010

37 per cent of 16-24 year olds with a disability were NEET in 2008, with this figure rising to around 41 per cent in 2009 and 2010. In comparison, the proportion of those not disabled who were classified as NEET rose from 13 per cent in 2008 to 16 per cent in 2010.

Ethnicity

It has not been possible to provide any analysis of young people who are NEET by ethnicity. Information from the Annual Population Survey is not viable due to the small numbers involved when looking for this low level of detail from an already small sub-group (age 16-24 only) of the sample. The data from the Careers Wales pupil destinations survey was also considered, as information is available by minority ethnic group, but there are considerable variations in response to the survey between these groups and this may have an impact upon the level of young people who are NEET that is recorded.

The report "*Reducing the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training in Wales*"² concluded that as there is a link between low attainment at school and an increased likelihood of a NEET outcome, variation in the level of achievement at Key Stage 4 by ethnic group, puts certain groups at more risk of becoming NEET further down the line. Analysis of attainment at school by ethnic group, is included annually in the Statistical Bulletin "*Academic Achievement and Pupil Characteristics*"³.

² Welsh Assembly Government August 2009

³ For latest see www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

Table 1: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales

	16-18 year olds				19-24 year olds			
	SFR NEET		APS NEET		SFR NEET		APS NEET	
	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number
End 1996	12.1	12,800	..	..	19.7	40,900	..	..
End 1997	10.6	11,700	..	..	18.5	36,800	..	..
End 1998	11.9	13,200	..	..	19.3	37,600	..	..
End 1999	11.6	12,800	..	..	18.6	37,100	..	..
End 2000	10.7	11,700	..	..	17.9	36,500	..	..
End 2001	11.7	13,100	11.8	13,000	18.9	38,900	19.9	39,700
End 2002	11.8	13,700	11.1	12,500	18.0	38,000	19.1	39,300
End 2003	12.6	14,900	11.9	13,700	16.7	36,700	17.6	36,800
End 2004	11.6	13,900	11.8	13,900	16.1	36,600	16.4	35,400
End 2005	10.3	12,400	12.1	13,900	17.5	40,600	18.2	40,800
End 2006	10.0	12,000	10.3	12,300	18.0	43,200	18.6	41,400
End 2007	11.8	14,300	12.2	14,800	17.6	43,400	18.0	42,100
End 2008	12.4	15,000	12.8	15,200	17.6	44,300	17.4	42,000
End 2009	12.2	14,400	11.9	13,900	22.0	56,300	21.3	52,100
End 2010 (p)	11.0	12,700	11.5	13,800	22.8	58,000	23.2	56,100

Source: WG Statistical First Release (SDR 125/2011) Participation of Young People in Education and the Labour Market;
Annual Local Labour Force Survey for Wales 2001-2003; Annual Population Survey 2004-2010

Table 2: 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales, by local authority

	Number				Per cent				Approximate 95% Confidence Interval			
	2008	2009	2010	2008-2010 ave	2008	2009	2010	2008-2010 ave	2008	2009	2010	2008-2010 ave
Isle of Anglesey	1,300 (!)	800 (!)	800 (!)	900	18.3 (!)	11.6 (!)	11.4 (!)	13.8	± 6.8	± 6.1	± 6.3	± 3.7
Gwynedd	2,400 (!)	2,500 (!)	2,500 (!)	2,500	15.1 (!)	16.0 (!)	16.5 (!)	15.8	± 5.1	± 5.5	± 6.1	± 3.2
Conwy	1,100 (!)	1,700 (!)	1,300 (!)	1,400	11.0 (!)	17.0 (!)	12.6 (!)	13.5	± 4.8	± 6.7	± 5.5	± 3.2
Denbighshire	1,300 (!)	2,300 (!)	2,300 (!)	2,000	13.1 (!)	24.4 (!)	23.2 (!)	20.2	± 4.8	± 6.9	± 6.5	± 3.5
Flintshire	1,100 (!)	*	2,100 (!)	1,400 (!)	6.9 (!)	*	13.4 (!)	9.2 (!)	± 4.3	*	± 5.5	± 2.8
Wrexham	2,000 (!)	3,200 (!)	2,300 (!)	2,500	13.3 (!)	22.3 (!)	15.9 (!)	17.1	± 5.3	± 6.9	± 6.5	± 3.6
Powys	1,100 (!)	2,200 (!)	1,300 (!)	1,500 (!)	9.6 (!)	18.0 (!)	11.1 (!)	12.9 (!)	± 5.2	± 7.6	± 5.6	± 3.6
Ceredigion	1,600 (!)	1,300 (!)	*	1,300	11.9 (!)	9.6 (!)	*	10.3	± 5.0	± 4.6	*	± 2.9
Pembrokeshire	2,100 (!)	1,500 (!)	1,900 (!)	1,800	20.2 (!)	13.6 (!)	17.1 (!)	16.9	± 7.2	± 5.8	± 6.0	± 3.6
Carmarthenshire	3,400 (!)	4,200 (!)	5,100	4,200	19.3 (!)	24.6 (!)	27.8	23.9	± 6.1	± 6.9	± 7.1	± 3.9
Swansea	6,800 (!)	6,000 (!)	4,900 (!)	5,900	20.9 (!)	17.9 (!)	14.2 (!)	17.6	± 6.1	± 5.2	± 4.6	± 3.1
Neath Port Talbot	2,700 (!)	3,000 (!)	3,400 (!)	3,000	17.4 (!)	20.1 (!)	24.0 (!)	20.4	± 5.1	± 5.9	± 6.9	± 3.4
Bridgend	3,300 (!)	3,100 (!)	3,000 (!)	3,100	23.6 (!)	23.9 (!)	22.2 (!)	23.2	± 6.5	± 7.0	± 6.9	± 3.9
The Vale of	2,300 (!)	2,500 (!)	2,300 (!)	2,400	17.6 (!)	19.0 (!)	17.5 (!)	18.0	± 6.4	± 6.7	± 6.3	± 3.8
Rhondda Cynon Taf	4,900 (!)	4,600 (!)	7,900	5,800	17.1 (!)	15.8 (!)	29.2	20.5	± 5.9	± 5.2	± 6.9	± 3.5
Merthyr Tydfil	1,600 (!)	1,800 (!)	1,900 (!)	1,700	24.7 (!)	27.4 (!)	28.0 (!)	26.7	± 8.6	± 8.7	± 8.5	± 5.0
Caerphilly	3,500 (!)	5,300	4,500	4,400	17.5 (!)	27.6	24.1	23.0	± 6.0	± 6.8	± 6.5	± 3.7
Blaenau Gwent	1,600 (!)	2,100 (!)	1,900 (!)	1,900	18.4 (!)	23.9 (!)	22.4 (!)	21.6	± 6.8	± 7.6	± 7.6	± 4.2
Torfaen	2,000 (!)	2,700	1,900 (!)	2,200	20.0 (!)	24.9	18.5 (!)	21.2	± 6.1	± 5.9	± 5.3	± 3.3
Monmouthshire	1,000 (!)	1,500 (!)	1,700 (!)	1,400	12.6 (!)	20.2 (!)	20.6 (!)	17.8	± 6.1	± 8.0	± 7.0	± 4.1
Newport	3,100 (!)	4,000 (!)	3,700 (!)	3,600	17.0 (!)	21.5 (!)	20.6 (!)	19.7	± 5.7	± 6.7	± 5.6	± 3.4
Cardiff	7,300 (!)	8,600 (!)	11,900 (!)	9,300	12.2 (!)	14.1 (!)	19.4 (!)	15.2	± 4.8	± 5.2	± 5.9	± 3.1
Wales	57,200	66,000	69,900	64,400	15.9	18.3	19.3	17.8	± 1.2	± 1.3	± 1.4	± 0.8

Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010

(!) The data item is based on between approx. 25 and 40 responses and is categorised as being of limited quality

(!!) The data item is based on between approx. 10 and 25 responses and is categorised as being of low quality

* The data item is not sufficiently robust for publication

Table 3: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales, by gender, age and disability status

		Number			Per cent			Approximate 95% Confidence Interval		
		2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
By gender										
16-18	Males	9,200	8,400	7,900	15.3	13.7	12.8	± 2.7	± 2.7	± 2.6
	Females	6,000	5,500	5,900	10.3	10.0	10.2	± 2.3	± 2.5	± 2.4
	All	15,200	13,900	13,800	12.8	11.9	11.5	± 1.8	± 1.8	± 1.8
19-24	Males	18,200	23,700	27,000	14.6	19.0	21.6	± 2.2	± 2.5	± 2.6
	Females	23,800	28,400	29,000	20.3	23.6	25.0	± 2.4	± 2.6	± 2.7
	All	42,000	52,100	56,100	17.4	21.3	23.2	± 1.7	± 1.8	± 1.9
16-24	Males	27,500	32,100	34,900	14.8	17.2	18.7	± 1.7	± 1.8	± 1.9
	Females	29,800	33,900	35,000	17.0	19.3	20.1	± 1.8	± 1.9	± 2.0
	All	57,200	66,000	69,900	15.9	18.3	19.3	± 1.2	± 1.3	± 1.4
Persons	16	3,400 (!)	3,200 (!)	2,500 (!)	8.4 (!)	7.9 (!)	6.7 (!)	± 2.5	± 2.6	± 2.3
	17	5,200	4,700	4,000	13.2	11.5	10.0	± 3.1	± 3.1	± 2.8
	18	6,700	6,000	7,300	17.0	16.9	17.5	± 3.7	± 3.8	± 3.7
	19	6,800	8,500	8,800	16.9	19.8	22.4	± 3.9	± 3.9	± 4.4
	20	7,100	8,700	10,800	15.7	19.5	25.5	± 3.7	± 4.2	± 4.6
	21	7,500	9,100	9,800	17.2	22.6	23.6	± 4.0	± 4.6	± 4.7
	22	6,900	11,600	10,400	18.9	25.7	24.1	± 4.4	± 4.7	± 4.5
	23	7,500	6,500	8,000	20.4	18.4	20.7	± 4.6	± 4.5	± 4.4
	24	6,300	7,800	8,300	15.8	20.9	22.5	± 3.8	± 4.5	± 4.7
By disability										
16-18	Disabled	2,700 (!)	2,500 (!)	2,400 (!)	24.3 (!)	23.8 (!)	20.6 (!)	± 7.9	± 8.0	± 6.9
	Not disabled	12,500	11,400	11,400	11.7	10.8	10.5	± 1.8	± 1.8	± 1.8
19-24	Disabled	12,000	12,200	16,200	42.3	48.7	47.3	± 6.2	± 6.6	± 5.9
	Not disabled	30,000	39,900	39,800	14.1	18.1	19.2	± 1.6	± 1.8	± 1.9
16-24	Disabled	14,700	14,800	18,600	37.2	41.2	40.5	± 5.0	± 5.3	± 4.8
	Not disabled	42,600	51,200	51,200	13.3	15.7	16.2	± 1.2	± 1.3	± 1.4

Source: Annual Population Survey 2008-2010

(!) The data item is based on between approx. 25 and 40 responses and is categorised as being of limited quality

Table 4: Young people not in education, employment or training in Wales, by level of highest qualification, 3 year average 2008-201

		Number				Per cent				Approximate 95% Confidence Interval			
		No qualificat- ions	Below NQF Level 2	NQF Level 2	NQF Level 3 and above	No qualificat- ions	Below NQF Level 2	NQF Level 2	NQF Level 3 and above	No qualificat- ions	Below NQF Level 2	NQF Level 2	NQF Level 3 and above
16-18	NEET	2,900	5,400	3,900	1,700	21.1	38.7	28.1	12.1	± 4.6	± 3.3	± 2.0	± 2.4
	Not-	6,400	20,400	54,900	21,600	6.2	19.8	53.2	20.9	± 2.7	± 2.7	± 2.2	± 2.9
	All	9,300	25,800	58,800	23,200	7.9	22.0	50.2	19.8	± 3.1	± 2.8	± 2.2	± 2.9
19-24	NEET	12,700	14,000	10,800	11,600	25.8	28.6	21.9	23.7	± 3.7	± 2.8	± 2.2	± 1.5
	Not-	8,400	23,500	40,500	118,200	4.4	12.3	21.2	62.0	± 1.7	± 2.1	± 2.2	± 1.7
	All	21,000	37,500	51,200	129,800	8.8	15.7	21.4	54.2	± 2.4	± 2.3	± 2.2	± 1.8
16-24	NEET	15,600	19,400	14,700	13,300	24.7	30.8	23.3	21.1	± 2.9	± 2.1	± 1.4	± 1.3
	Not-	14,700	43,900	95,400	139,700	5.0	14.9	32.5	47.6	± 1.5	± 1.6	± 1.6	± 1.6
	All	30,300	63,300	110,100	153,000	8.5	17.7	30.8	42.9	± 1.9	± 1.8	± 1.6	± 1.6

Source: Annual Population Survey

Notes

The National Assembly for Wales Enterprise and Learning Committee (that was in place during the third Assembly from 2007-2011) report *Young people not in education, employment or training*, of October 2011 included two recommendations concerning data on young people that are NEET as follows:-

Recommendation 1. We recommend that the Welsh Assembly Government continue to ensure, by working with the UK Government where appropriate, that headline and local data relating to young people not in education, training or employment are as comprehensive, robust and up-to-date as possible.

Recommendation 3. Given that young disabled people are twice as likely to be not in education, employment or training as non-disabled people, we recommend that Welsh Assembly Government statistical publications should routinely analyse data in relation to disability and young people that are not in education, employment or training.

The full report can be found at :-

http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-third-assembly/bus-committees/bus-committees-scrutiny-committees/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-report/el_3_-10-r09.htm

Regular Statistical Outputs

The Statistical First Release (SFR) *Participation of young people in education and the labour market* is published annually in July. It contains the definitive source for estimates of the proportion of young people who are NEET in Wales.

We also publish a quarterly bulletin *Young People not in education, employment or training (NEET)* to provide user with more timely, but less statistically robust, statistics between SFRs and includes some analysis by gender, age and region, not possible with the SFR data.

Latest versions can be found through the post-16 education and training statistics theme page, and the page related to Participation in education and the labour market.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/post16ed/part-labour/?lang=en>

Notes on the use of statistical articles

Statistical articles generally relate to one-off analyses for which there are no updates planned, at least in the short-term, and serve to make such analyses available to a wider audience than might otherwise be the case. They are mainly used to publish analyses that are exploratory in some way, for example:

- Introducing a new experimental series of data;
- A partial analysis of an issue which provides a useful starting point for further research but that nevertheless is a useful analysis in its own right;
- Drawing attention to research undertaken by other organisations, either commissioned by the Welsh Government or otherwise, where it is useful to highlight the conclusions, or to build further upon the research;
- An analysis where the results may not be of as high quality as those in our routine statistical releases and bulletins, but where meaningful conclusions can still be drawn from the results.

Where quality is an issue, this may arise in one or more of the following ways:

- being unable to accurately specify the timeframe used (as can be the case when using an administrative source);
- the quality of the data source or data used; or
- other specified reasons.

However, the level of quality will be such that it does not significantly impact upon the conclusions. For example, the exact timeframe may not be central to the conclusions that can be drawn, or it is the order of magnitude of the results, rather than the exact results, that are of interest to the audience.

The analysis presented does not constitute a National Statistic, but may be based on National Statistics outputs and will nevertheless have been subject to careful consideration and detailed checking before publication. An assessment of the strengths and weaknesses in the analysis will be included in the article, for example comparisons with other sources, along with guidance on how the analysis might be used, and a description of the methodology applied.

Articles are subject to the release practices as defined by the release practices protocol, and so, for example, are published on a pre-announced date in the same way as other statistical outputs.

Missing value symbols used in the article follow the standards used in other statistical outputs, as outlined below.

- .. The data item is not available
- . The data item is not applicable
- The data item is not exactly zero, but estimated as zero or less than half the final digit shown
- * The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication